

On page 1, please delete the first complete paragraph and insert the following replacement paragraphs and section heading:

The present invention relates to a device and method for reading barcodes on objects, such as for instance articles in a shop.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Such devices or scanners can be divided into two types. The first type is a so-called fixed scanner which is disposed at a fixed location, for instance in or on a counter of a shop, wherein the objects for scanning are moved by hand along the front of the scanner by an individual. These fixed scanners are used particularly for small objects which can be readily picked up and moved over the scanner by an individual. A second type is a hand scanner which is carried in the hand of the individual or operator in the direction of the barcode on the relevant articles, whereafter the barcode is read. These hand scanners are used particularly in the case of large or heavy objects which are awkward if not impossible to pick up by hand and move along the front of the scanner.

On page 1, please delete the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 and insert the following replacement paragraphs and section heading:

An object of the present invention is to obviate the above stated drawbacks.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention therefore provides a device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising:

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- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;
- a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
- a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode; and

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cont.*

- a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 1.2-5.5 inches (3-14 cm).

On page 8, after the third complete paragraph, please insert the following section heading:

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 9, after the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, please insert the following section heading:

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

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The placing of polygon 14 and mirrors 19-21 is such that the narrowest possible scanner is provided, i.e. that the distance between side walls 3 of the housing of the scanner is as small as possible, preferably between 1.2 and 5.5 inches (3 and 14 cm), so that an operator can readily take hold of the scanner with one hand. For this purpose polygon 14 is placed as closely as possible to a corner of the housing, while mirrors 19-21 are placed as closely as possible to an opposite corner of the housing. With this placing of the polygon and the mirrors the housing can be embodied very compactly, wherein the internal path length of the laser light is still maintained. A width of 2.4 inches (60 mm) by a depth of 2.0 inches (50 mm) and a height of 3.3 inches (85 mm) can be realized for a scanner of the above described type.